

The Win As Much As You Can Game

The purpose of this exercise is to examine aspects of social dilemmas, situations where one must choose between supporting individual versus group benefit. It incorporates aspects of the “tragedy of the commons,” pareto efficiency (no one can be better off without making someone else worse off), and collective action.

TA Directions:

1. Divide your class into pairs, and organize the pairs into a cluster of 8 (4 pairs). If there is an odd number, a pair can have a single member or 3 members. *Each pair needs a Tally sheet.*
2. Give the directions of the game:
 - a. The goal of the game is to win as much as you can.
 - b. For ten successive rounds, you and your partner will choose either an “X” or a “Y.” X represents working for your individual interest, and Y represents choosing the cooperative alternative.
 - c. The “pay-off” for each round is dependent upon the pattern of choices made in your cluster.
 - d. Each round you will be allowed to discuss with your partner how you want to vote. Do not discuss your choices with the other pairs in your cluster.
3. Time each discussion round and then direct the pairs to reveal their decisions with the rest of their cluster. They then calculate how much was won/lost according the score chart (next page). As each new round begins, announce any new rules on the chart (bonus rounds and cluster discussion).
4. After all 10 rounds are completed, record on the board how each cluster in the class did. Record the \$ wins and losses of each pair and the net benefit of the entire group.
 - a. Some possible outcomes:

	“Tragedy of the Commons”	Zero-Sum Game	Optimal Individual Outcome	Optimal Group Outcome
Cluster choices	4 X’s each round	Mix of X’s and Y’s	1X, 3Y’s per round	4 Y’s each round
Individual outcomes	-\$25	Some +/- \$\$	+\$75 3x -\$25	+\$25
Cluster outcome	-\$100 net	+\$0.00 net	+\$0.00 net	+\$100 net

5. Questions for the class:
 - a. What strategies did your pair employ towards the rest of the group?
 - b. Did anyone try to convince their cluster to choose “Y”, so you could choose “N”? Did it work?
 - c. Was anyone completely altruistic? (Y every time)
 - d. Who won? Did the group win? Show the optimal group outcome on the board (+\$100 net gain)
 - e. Where is this cooperation applicable in real life? (ex: public services – schools, hospitals, parks.) Individuals are better off when we use these without contributing to their upkeep (paying taxes). If everyone did this, the resources would not be provided and everyone would be worse off.
 - f. Groups with negative net \$\$: Tragedy of the Commons. Each pair worked for individual interest, resulting in a depletion of the resource (denoted at \$\$ in this exercise), even when it was clear this was not in anyone’s interest for it to happen.

WIN AS MUCH AS YOUR CAN TALLY SHEET

Directions: For ten successive rounds, you and your partner will choose either an "X" or a "Y." The "pay-off" for each round is dependent upon the pattern of choices made in your cluster of four pairs:

4 X's:	Lose \$1.00 each
3X's: 1 Y:	Win \$1.00 each Lose \$3.00
2 X's: 2 Y's:	Win \$2.00 each Lose \$2.00 each
1 X: 3 Y's:	Win \$3.00 Lose \$1.00 each
4 Y's:	Win \$1.00 each

STRATEGY: You are to confer with your partner on each round and make a JOINT DECISION.
Before rounds 5, 8, and 10 you confer with the other pairs in your cluster.

STRATEGY							
ROUND	TIME ALLOWED	CONFER WITH	CHOICE	\$ WON	\$ LOST	\$ BALANCE	
1	2 mins.	Partner					
2	1 min.	Partner					
3	1 min.	Partner					
4	1 min.	Partner					
5	3 mins.	Cluster					Bonus round: pay-off is multiplied by 3
	+1 min	Partner					
6	1 min.	Partner					
7	1 min.	Partner					
8	3 mins.	Cluster					Bonus round: pay-off is multiplied by 5
	+1 min	Partner					
9	1 min.	Partner					
10	3 mins.	Cluster					Bonus round: pay-off is multiplied by 10
	+1 min	Partner					